



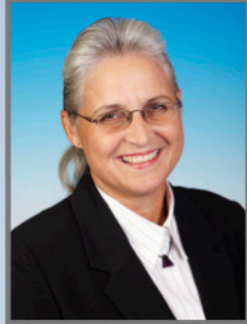
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE JO JORDAN
HOUSE DISTRICT 44 · WAIANAE, MAKAHA, MAKUA, MAILI · DECEMBER 2012

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Happy Holidays!

I wanted to begin by wishing you all the best this holiday season and hope that you take some time to reflect on the many blessings we have in our lives. I am especially grateful and honored to have been elected as the Representative of the new House District 44 and look forward to continuing to serve you.



In this newsletter, I highlight the release of \$500,000 for the Makaha Valley Flood Study as a result of a bill I introduced last session. I also briefly summarize the fourth quarter 2012 economic report from the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, which projects positive economic growth in Hawaii for the rest of 2012 and continued positive growth in 2013.

A few special events held last month are also highlighted including Kamaile Academy's Exhibition Night at UH West Oahu, the Veterans Day Ceremony held by our local Leeward Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 849 at the Herbert K. Piliilau Army Recreation Center, and the informational meeting and talk-story session on homelessness that I co-sponsored featuring Matthew Doherty, the regional coordinator for the Western region of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

I look forward to the new year, especially as the start of the 2013 legislative session draws near. Feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Mahalo,

Jo Jordan,
District 44 Representative

Release of Funds for Makaha Valley Flood Study Approved

Governor Abercrombie approved the release of \$500,000 for the Makaha Valley Flood Study as required by a bill I introduced last session that was enacted into law as Act 283. As a major watershed on the Waianae Coast, the Makaha Valley area has experienced flooding and damage to property and structures in the past. Act 283 directs the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to conduct a flood study for Makaha Valley and investigate all potential funding sources to finance the study and any improvements or repairs recommended to mitigate the flooding. DLNR prepared a Progress Report dated October 2012. The report notes that "although a Waianae Watershed Management Plan was prepared for the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, a study focused specifically on Makaha Valley is vital to identify specific recommendations for the control of storm drainage to reduce recurring flooding to residences and businesses in the area." The report also explains that "the Department will work with large land owners in the community and other governmental agencies to develop partnerships that will facilitate this effort and identify potential possible sponsors to fund proposed flood mitigation improvements and outreach efforts." I will continue to work with DLNR to implement the flood study for Makaha Valley.

Go Paperless!

Check out my online newsletter at <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?member=jordan> or sign up for our electronic newsletter online at <http://eepurl.com/irEqE>. When you fill out the online form, you will be added to my e-mail list and you will get all future newsletters sent straight to your e-mail, not to your mailbox.

Be sure to like my Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/repjordan> for periodic updates.

Thanks for doing your part to save the trees.

HONORING OUR VETERANS



Representative Jordan and Senator Shimabukuro with ROTC cadets at the Veterans Day Ceremony.



Representative Jordan and Mr. Henry Ahlo, a veteran and Waianae resident, at the Veterans Day Ceremony.

Veterans Day Activities in Waianae

I had the privilege of honoring our veterans by joining our local Leeward Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 849 at the Herbert K. Pililaau Army Recreational Center. I also joined in the Waianae Veterans Day Parade, which included a drill team challenge with over fourteen different high school ROTC teams. I look forward to continuing to work for our veterans and active military who proudly serve our country. We must never forget the sacrifices that are made for the freedoms we enjoy every day of our lives.

State Forecasts Strong Economic Growth

In its fourth quarter 2012 economic report, the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) projected higher growth of visitor-related indicators and more optimistic growth of most other economic indicators in 2012. DBEDT expects positive economic growth in Hawaii for the rest of 2012 and expects to see continued positive growth in 2013. Construction jobs increased 1.4 percent during the third quarter of 2012 after 17 consecutive quarters of decline. State Capital Improvement Project spending increased 32.9 percent during the first nine months of the year, and the private building permit value increased 39.1 percent during the same time period. Following a higher-than-expected growth in visitor arrivals in the first three quarters of 2012, DBEDT projects that overall visitor arrivals will increase by 9.4 percent for 2012, 0.8 of a percentage point higher than its previous forecast. Total visitor spending is now projected to increase 18.8 percent in 2012, 3.6 percentage points above the previous forecast. DBEDT increased the forecasted growth rates of most of the economic indicators such as real personal income, gross domestic product, and jobs compared with its forecast in August 2012.

Informational Meeting and Talk-Story Session on Homelessness

I co-sponsored a public meeting for service providers, public officials, lawmakers, and concerned citizens to meet and talk about national trends and

best practices to end homelessness with Matthew Doherty, the regional coordinator for the Western region of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. At the meeting, Mr. Doherty identified certain priorities including ending homelessness



Pictured from L-R are Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair of Human Services; Matthew Doherty, regional coordinator for the Western region of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness; Representative Jordan, and Colin Kippen, Hawaii State Coordinator on Homelessness.

among veterans by 2015. He noted that between 2010 and 2011, homelessness among veterans dropped 12 percent. Another priority area identified is preventing and ending homelessness among families and youth by 2020. One step to addressing this priority area is to increase focus on homeless youth when the point in time homeless count is conducted in January 2013. Some of the keys to reaching these goals include a focus on data driven strategies, community led action, and partnerships. Mr. Doherty acknowledged that homelessness will never go away completely, but with systems in place, the goal is to move people back into stability as quickly as possible.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Access to Justice Commission Community Briefing

On Tuesday, December 11 at 6pm at the Waianae District Park Multi-Purpose room, I am co-hosting a Community Briefing with the Access to Justice Commission to share the Commission's goals, past accomplishments and current initiatives, followed by questions from community participants. The Commission's primary purpose is to substantially increase access to justice in civil legal matters for low and moderate-income residents of Hawaii. Legal service providers will conduct a mini-legal fair to begin assisting individuals who need help. For more information about the Commission, visit <http://www.hawaiijustice.org/hawaii-access-to-justice-commission>.



Pictured from L-R are Representative Della Au Belatti and Hawaii Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald—appointed members of the Access to Justice Commission—and Representative Jordan.

Kamaile Academy Exhibition Night

Congratulations to the students, faculty, and staff of Kamaile Academy for a successful exhibition night held at UH West Oahu. It was a great privilege for me to attend this event and assist in the preparation prior to the exhibition night as students debated and defended their arguments relating to rail in front of students, parents, Kamaile staff, UH West Oahu staff, and other members of the greater community. I look forward to continuing to work with the students and staff of Kamaile Academy as well as all the schools within my district and the State of Hawaii.



Representative Jordan assisting Kamaile Academy students in preparation for Exhibition Night.

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